

SOME NEEDED WORK.

Those who imagine that we are nearing the end of bird study—that there is not much left worth spending time upon—should search through all available bird books for such common things as most phases of breeding habits, the problems of song, most questions relating to food and the manner and times of feeding, the effect of light and wear and age upon color of the feathers. In short, there is nothing yet fully known even in the field of the more evident matters relating to the birds. In the less evident, having to do with mental processes, physiological processes and the like almost nothing has been done. Anyone should be able to throw light upon the questions of nest building, deposition of the eggs, period of incubation, young in the nest and out of it, and anything else relating to the life as revealed in the nesting season. There are doubtless more than a dozen species of birds nesting within your reach every year, and yet it is not a hazardous venture that you are ignorant about all of these suggested questions. Ought you to be? Such work will prove intensely interesting and of great value. It must certainly be within the reach of all who live where trees grow. For such work the birds need not be disturbed to the point of leaving the nest in order to carry on the necessary observations. If the nest is too high to be looked into without climbing too near it and where a step-ladder cannot be used, a small mirror on the end of a stick will often suffice. But if the study taxes your ingenuity, so much the better!